



STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING

March 8, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Held Via Videoconference

MINUTES

Participating Members:

Kara Aanenson
Jeffrey Breslin
John Burton
Kathy Estrada
Michelle Farr
Eric Ford, Chair
Derrell Frazier
Annie Hansen-Combs
Lynette Holmes
Cory McCray
Shobhit Negi
Elizabeth "Liz" Park
Janelle Riddick
Heidi Rochon
Joe Rossow
Kimberly Sauer
Jonathan Shepherd, M.D.
Shameka Stanford, Vice Chair
Darren Stephenson
Laura Wilt

Staff:

Jessica Wheeler
Carly Gayda
Bill Harper
William Jernigan
Chris Miele

Guests:

Antonina Duzhikhin, AmeriCorp Fellow, UMBC
Choice Program

I. Welcome & Roll Call

Mr. Miele called the meeting to order at 1:03 and members and staff introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Ford directed members to the consent agenda that was distributed prior to the meeting. Hearing no additions or corrections, Mr. Ford assumed a motion and summarily approved the consent agenda as presented.

III. Compliance Monitoring Updates

Mr. Harper updated members on a recent classification change of court-holding facilities. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) recently informed the states that court holding facilities will now be classified as a lockup or jail for adults. The change in classification will require the jail removal core protection to be applied. This will mean an increase in data collection from the facilities and require that accused youth only be held securely for up to 6 hours. As it stands now adjudicated youth would be considered a violation. Mr. Harper is awaiting further technical assistance from OJJDP and will provide an update to members at a later date.

IV. Old / New Business

A. Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC)

Mr. Ford advised that although the Council's term has concluded, he remains in contact with DJS Secretary Sam Abed regarding JJRC outcomes and next steps. Certain JJRC recommendations have not yet reached resolution and continuation of the JJRC was proposed in [SB 0853](#), along with the [JJRC recommendations](#) that were finalized.

B. Legislative Committee Update

Ms. Park provided an update on the work of the Legislative Committee during the 2021 Legislative Session, and reviewed the attached legislative response protocol whereby SAG members are encouraged to testify, write letters, meet with legislators, etc. as *individual citizens or representatives of their respective agencies*. SAG members may not engage in legislative activities on behalf of the SAG.

Mr. Harper noted that nine pending bills have been identified as relevant to the SAG's purview of the four core protections of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA), and that impact statements are shared with the full SAG once approved by the Executive Committee for release. Ms. Park encouraged members to familiarize themselves with [SB 0853](#), noting a myriad of proposed changes that may impact Juvenile Justice practices are subject to new legislation.

C. New Committee Chairs - Update and Vote

Mr. Ford noted that three of the SAG's committees have selected chairs as required in the SAG's bylaws. Mr. Ford indicated his support for the each committee's selection and made a motion to approve the following individuals as recommended:

Ms. Kara Aanenson, Vice-Chair, Legislative Committee
Dr. Marone Brown, Chair, Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee
Mr. John Burton, Chair, Emerging Leaders Committee
Ms. Elizabeth Park, Chair, Legislative Committee

Ms. Sauer seconded Mr. Ford's motion and expressed gratitude to each committee chair. Attending members unanimously adopted the motion.

D. Youth Diversion Toolkit

Mr. Jernigan introduced Ms. Antonina Duzhikhin, an American Corps Fellow with UMBC's Choice Program, and summarized her contributions to the Youth Diversion Toolkit. Ms. Duzhikhin expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to complete front-end system work and thanked the group. Ms. Duzhikhin recommends that the SAG remain intentional about the intended audience for the toolkit, that efforts be made to emphasize connections between organizations already doing the work, and that extra emphasis be paid to ensuring youth voice, agency, and autonomy are considered.

E. SAG Three Year Plan - Update

Ms. Aanenson, Ms. Rochon, Dr. Stanford, and Ms. Wilt provided an update with respect to each of their purpose area groups. Each group has advanced their section of the Three-Year Plan draft, and some will hold additional meetings to ensure member contributions are complete. Ms. Wheeler noted that the Title II Solicitation will likely include requirements for the Three-Year plan and recommended that purpose area groups be prepared to meet at least once more to ensure alignment with federal requirements.

F. Agency Updates

1. Department of Human Services (DHS)

Ms. Farr provided updates on the Department's implementation of funds connected to the Consolidated Appropriations Act which provides assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency, and includes temporary provisions related to foster care youth. Ms. Farr also provided an overview of "MYLife: the Maryland Youth Launching Initiatives for Empowerment" website which is an Interactive hub of information & resources

designed to assist Maryland youth who have child welfare experience. Youth have first hand access to tools that support their independence and self sufficiency. The site also provides Local Departments of Social Services, caregivers, providers, community partners, and stakeholders access to valuable information to support youth and young adults

Ms. Farr also described The Department's aligned efforts with DJS regarding the Family First Act and Crossover Youth Practice Model.

2. Department of Juvenile Services (DJS)

Ms. Aanenson noted that DJS has been conducting vaccine clinics for frontline staff over the last six weeks and that many staff have received first and second rounds of the vaccine. The State Advisory Board is continuing to monitor the outcomes of JJRC recommendations and pending legislation. She also advised that DJS is working with DHS to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

G. FY 2021 JJAC / JSRM Grant Updates

Mr. Miele noted that as part of the Consent Agenda, members were provided with quarterly programmatic reporting documents for JJAC/JSRM subrecipients. These reports include progress summaries and performance measures, and will be sent quarterly for SAG member review. Sabraya Knight from the Office remains available to answer member questions as they arise. The Grant Monitoring subcommittee will also begin to meet quarterly for more granular review of the quarterly grantee reports. The Grants Team shared that the FY 2022 JJAC / JSRM Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is in process and will be sent to the SAG for review prior to publishing. Other NOFAs are also in process, and will be posted soon. Members are encouraged to check the Office [website](#) regularly for all FY22 funding opportunities.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 3, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Maryland Juvenile Justice Councils, Boards, and Resources:

SAG Member Resources	Juvenile Justice Reform Council	State Advisory Board for DJS	SAG Member Board Book
Member, JJRA, Training, and JJ Links	View video recordings of all meetings and final report	Description, roles, meeting information	Helpful information for new and existing SAG members